



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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(100)  
Ent.  
10-22-03

Application No.: 10/047,208  
Applicant(s): Shiohara, Akira  
Filed: January 14, 2002  
Title: ARTICLE JOINING CONTROL METHOD  
Art Unit: 3651  
Examiner: Joseph E. Valenza  
Atty. Docket No.: 2718-P3070.001  
In reply to: Office Action Dated June 19, 2003

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL, POSTAGE PREPAID, IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO MAIL STOP RCE, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450 ON OCTOBER 13, 2003.

  
NOELLE CONSTANTINOU

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
and  
FURTHER RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION OF JUNE 19, 2003**

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**RESPONSE**

Applicant requests entry of the previously unentered amendment after Final Action, filed September 8, 2003. Applicant also requests that the remarks which follow be considered.

It is believed that claim 1 should be allowable for the reasons set forth in the amendment filed September 8, 2003.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and further distinguishes from the references by pointing out that when it is confirmed that articles are stored at a position in close proximity to a junction with the main conveyor path, each auxiliary conveyance path reserves a detected spacing, and when this reserved spacing approaches the junction, the articles are cut out from the auxiliary conveyance path for joining to the spacing.

Claim 3 is dependent upon claim 2 and states that when the articles stored in the auxiliary conveyance path cannot be cut out all at once to the reserved spacing, the auxiliary conveyance path is given priority over the other auxiliary conveyance paths in reserving a spacing for cutting out the remaining articles in the auxiliary conveyance path, thus further distinguishing from the references.

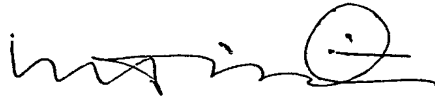
Claim 5 is dependent upon claim 1 and states that the spacing equal to or greater than a predetermined length is a spacing equal to a spacing preset between the groups of articles in a before-and-behind relation plus a minimum length of the stored article, thus further distinguishing from the references.

Applicant requests a one-month extension of time to respond to the Action of June 19, 2003. Enclosed is a check for \$880.00 to cover the cost of the one-month extension plus the required RCE fee. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to our Deposit Account Number 50-0852.

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed now to be in condition for allowance and such action is most respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner should note any problems with the claims in their present condition which can be corrected by Examiner's Amendment or otherwise, the undersigned attorney would appreciate a telephone call from the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

REISING, ETHINGTON,  
BARNES, KISSELLE, P.C.



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William H. Griffith  
Registration No. 16,706  
P.O. Box 4390  
Troy, Michigan 48099  
Phone: (248) 689-3500  
Fax: (248) 689-4071